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FROM : AmConsulate SURABAYA

99
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

April 25, 1962

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SUBJECT: Chief of Indonesian Moslem Revolutionary Forces in South Sulawesi Writes Letter to President Kennedy

An Indonesian name Mohamad ANSHAR called upon the reporting officer at the Consulate, April 16, with a letter addressed to President Kennedy from Abdul KAHAR Muzzakar, self-styled chief of the Moslem Revolutionary Forces in South Sulawesi, which letter he wished to deliver or have delivered to the American Ambassador in Djakarta. The latter, when informed of Anshar's mission, sent word that it would be impossible for him to see Anshar, because of his (the Ambassador's) special relationship with the GOI; and, for the same reason, it would be impossible for him to forward a letter to President Kennedy.

In the letter, which the reporting officer read at Anshar's request, but did not retain, the rebel chieftain addressed himself to President Kennedy with respect to the following points:

1. If the GOI takes West Irian by means of war and/or armed force, Indonesia then becomes a member of the Communist bloc.
2. If this happens, the Indonesian Moslem Revolutionary Forces, being anti-Communist, reject war and refuse to support President SUKARNO.

In the final paragraph of the letter, Kahar asked President Kennedy to give him his moral support and assistance in making it possible for him to visit New York to present a plea to the United Nations, covering points 1 and 2 above. At the bottom of the letter, a copy was designated for the director of the Islamic Center in Washington, D. C. but, according to Anshar, would only be forwarded if and when the Ambassador agreed to transmit the original to President Kennedy.

In conversation with the reporting officer, after being given the Ambassador's reply, Anshar made several statements which are summarized as of possible interest, as follows:

- (1) Kahar came to an agreement with South/Southeast Sulawesi RegWar Administrator Colonel JUSUP, as reported by Condes 38 of November 7, 1961; but it was

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a cease-fire agreement only. He did not surrender nor did he "return to the fold". He and his Revolutionary Forces are still armed and prepared to strike again against the Government if, for instance, the GOI decides to take West Irian by armed force. He is situated "somewhere in South Sulawesi", though his wife is living in Makassar. It was implied that the relationship between husband and wife is strained.

(2) At the time of President Sukarno's most recent visit to South Sulawesi, in early January, the President expressed the desire to meet with Kahar, whom he had known during the Revolution as one of his aides*. Kahar sent word that he too would welcome the opportunity to meet Sukarno but with two conditions: first, Sukarno must agree to outlaw Communism in Indonesia; and second, he must revolutionize the system of government.

(When asked what he meant by "system of government", Anshar explained that the Revolutionary Forces resented the concentration of power in Java. In their opinion, he said, the only identity that Indonesia has is "Javanese"; and the present government is to blame. They believe that the provinces outside the island of Java are cheated of their share of the national budget, yet they are subjected to the rule of Javanese civil and military officials.)

*Note: The reporting officer thinks but isn't sure that Anshar said that Kahar was once an ex-aide to Sukarno. At times, his voice was almost inaudible.

(3) The Revolutionary Forces, strongly anti-Communist, resent the flow of Russian arms into Indonesia. These arms have been used against their own people and other "rebels" throughout the archipelago -- and will be used again.

(4) As to attitudes of the Revolutionary Forces with respect to the Dutch on the West Irian issue, they believe, on the basis of past experience, that the Dutch will never come to terms.

(5) As the only force in Indonesia that is 100% anti-Communist, the Revolutionary Forces believe that they should receive proper recognition from the United States. In fact, in the hope of being recognized and/or accepted, Kahar drafted the letter to President Kennedy. It never occurred to Kahar and his followers that the letter would not be received by the Ambassador and transmitted to Washington.

Comment: In appearance, poise, and personal convictions, the young man made a favorable impression upon the reporting officer, especially when compared to several ex-rebels met a year ago in Makassar, where ex-rebels are plentiful and once again accepted in Sulawesi society. He was non-committal about himself but his identification letters seemed to be authentic. In first revealing his identity, he presented a letter addressed to the Ambassador and signed by Lt. Colonel Mohamad ALI, Chief of the Intelligence Unit, indicating that he (Mohamad Anshar), as an officer (captain) in the Revolutionary Forces,

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